

[View this email in your browser](#)



October 2019

Research Updates

Journal Publications

[The educational progress and outcomes of children in care](#)

Special Issue: Oxford Review of Education, volume 45, number 4, August 2019

The educational outcomes of children in care continue to be a concern in all countries in which relevant data are collected. In this special edition of the Oxford Review of Education edited by Judy Sebba and Nikki Luke, international leaders in their fields contribute new and updated evidence of factors that might contribute to these poorer outcomes and possible ways of improving them. The papers offer a view of education for children and young people in care across a range of countries, from primary school through to university. The findings from the individual studies illuminate one another. For example, both Forsman, and Hickey and Flynn, showed that specific interventions could improve young people's reading skills. In turn, Okpych and Courtney found that a higher reading level at age 17 predicted a greater likelihood of later going to college. Three common themes emerge from the papers: resilience, early interventions, and children's voices.

Guest Editors: Judy Sebba and Nikki Luke

Contact [Professor Judy Sebba](#)

[Teenagers in foster care](#)

Special Issue: Child & Family Social Work, volume 24, issue 3, July 2019

All the articles in this special edition are open access until Feb 2020.

The task of fostering adolescents is unique, requiring skills, qualities, and information that acknowledge each young person's particular needs. This special edition presents a range of research reported at the [ESRC Seminar Series on Fostering Teenagers](#) and covers parenting styles, transitions to adulthood, child sexual exploitation, fostering unaccompanied asylum seeking young people, young people in custody and the needs of LGBTQ and separated teenagers. Each paper is followed by a commentary by a care-experienced young person. Three themes emerging from the papers are discussed in the editorial: autonomy and control; risk, resilience, and trauma; and relationships, identity, and stigma.

[Contact Professor Judy Sebba](#)

Focus on adoption

Julie Selwyn contributed to three key international publications on adoption, two within a special edition of Research on Social Work Practice:

[A review of the international evidence on adoption breakdown](#)

[The role of sibling placements in disruption](#)

Research on Social Work Practice, [Special Section: Understanding Adoption Breakdown](#), volume 29, Issue 2, Feb 2019.

The following is a consensus statement from leading academics from 7 countries on the legitimate use of adoption for the alternative care of children within a rights and ethics framework:

[Palacios J. et al., \(2019\) Adoption in the service of child protection. An international interdisciplinary perspective.](#) Psychology, Public Policy and Law. 25, 2, 57–72.

Contact [Professor Julie Selwyn](#)

[Journal Article: Who do they think they are: Making sense of self in residential care, foster care, and adoption](#)

Mariela Neagu, co-authored with Prof Judy Sebba, Children and Youth Services Review, October 2019.

Contact [Dr Mariela Neagu](#)

Rees Centre Report

[Evaluation of the Multisystemic Therapy Service in Essex, Final Report July 2019](#)

New Global Network on Infants, Toddlers and Child Protection

The first meeting of a global network on infants, toddlers and child protection took place at the University of Oxford in September, hosted by the Rees Centre, Department for Social Policy and Intervention and Chapin Hall, University of Chicago. More information on this new network will be published in our next newsletter.

Care Experienced Conference

The Rees Centre was pleased and privileged to contribute to The Care Experienced Conference at Liverpool Hope University and the recently published [Research and Academic Group Report](#).

Centre News

Welcome to Professor Leon Feinstein



Leon Feinstein has been appointed to the post of Professor of Education and Children's Social Care, the first Endowed Chair in the Department of Education. Leon joins the Rees Centre from the Children's Commissioner's Office. He will continue to be working closely with the Children's Commissioner's Office leading the Data for Children Partnership and brings a wealth of expertise in the field of children's social care.

Leon is the speaker for the Department's public seminar on 25 November, [Measuring vulnerability amongst children in England. A new national approach](#).

Neil Harrison wins 2019 BERJ Editor's Choice Award

Neil received the annual 'Editors' Choice' award from the British Educational Research Journal for his article 'Challenging discourses of aspiration: the role of expectations and attainment in access to higher education', written with Richard Waller at the University of the West of England. [Full article](#)

Neil is the Deputy Director of the Rees Centre. [More information](#)

Visit from delegates from the Netherlands

The Rees Centre was delighted to host a group from the Netherlands in September who came to hear the research evidence on strengthening foster care. The 23 delegates represented the Ministries of Wellbeing (Youth care) and Justice, the child protection boards, local authorities, Dutch Youth Institutes, Dutch foster care organisations and charities, and representatives of foster children. This was part of a wider visit that also included a range of presentations from CoramBAAF, the DfE, Fostering Network, Coram and Islington fostering services and foster carers.

Staffing Update

Welcome to Shirley Lewis and Heather Browning-Lee. Shirley is working on the Evaluation of Bright Spots (the surveys of looked after children's subjective well-being) and the Evaluation of the Regionalisation of Adoption Agencies in partnership with Ecorys while Heather will be providing support across a number of projects. [See Rees Centre current research](#).

Blogs

[Are care leavers really more likely to go to prison than university?](#)

Neil Harrison's post for Exchange Wales

For those of you who don't like a long read, the short answer is that nobody actually knows for sure, but that it looks somewhere between unlikely and very unlikely. Nevertheless, it's a factoid that persists and is often repeated by politicians, academics, practitioners and even young people themselves. [Read more](#)

Upcoming Events

Permanently Progressing? Building Secure Futures for Children in Scotland

Speakers: **Helen Whincup and Linda Cusworth**

Rees Centre Seminar

Tuesday 22 October, 2-4pm, seminar room K/L

University of Oxford, 15 Norham Gardens.

Open to all. To attend, please email rees.centre@education.ox.ac.uk

[Further info on the Permanently Progressing? study](#), including an information sheet for children.

Rees Centre Inaugural Annual Lecture on School Exclusions

Speakers: **Amanda Spielman (Chief Inspector Ofsted), Alison Woodhead (Director of Public Affairs and Communications, Adoption UK), Lisa Cherry (Trainer and Author), Harry Daniels (Professor of Education, University of Oxford).**

Thursday 7 Nov, 5-7pm.

University of Oxford, Rewley House.

Open to all. [Waiting list](#)

Measuring vulnerability amongst children in England. A new national approach

Speaker: **Leon Feinstein, Professor of Education and Children's Social Care, Rees Centre**

Department of Education Public Seminar

Monday 25 Nov, 5pm, seminar room A

University of Oxford, 15 Norham Gardens.

Open to all. [Book your place](#) or email rees.centre@education.ox.ac.uk

Extras

Conference for school leaders on evidence about teaching mental health:

[Teaching Children About Mental Health and Wellbeing. What does the research tell us?](#)

Education Media Centre. 4 November 2019



Copyright © 2019 Rees Centre Department of Education University of Oxford, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

